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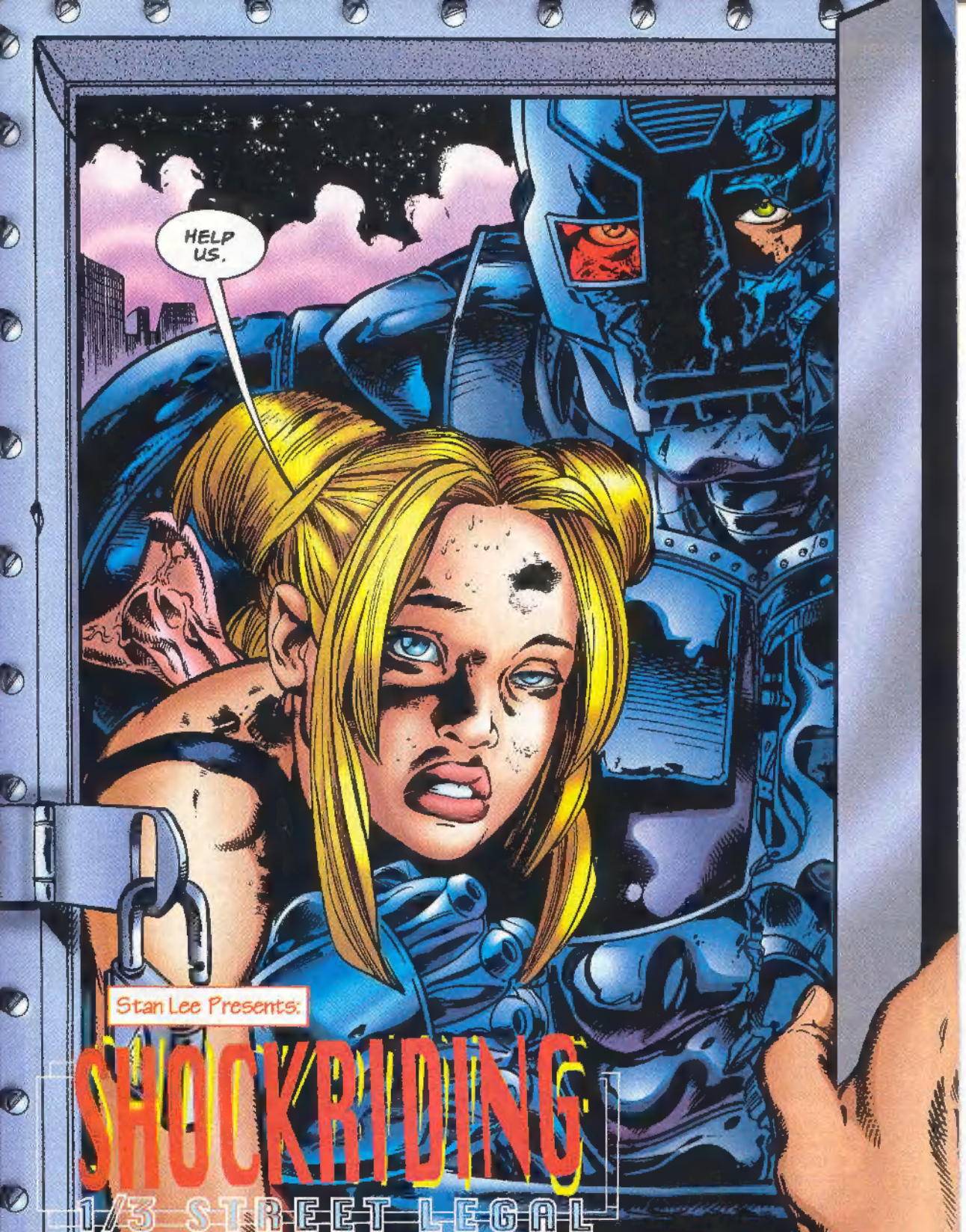
PREP FOR IMMEDIATE SURGERY.
GUY TOOK A RAW KINESIS BURST IN THE ABDOMEN.
CRASH TEAMS
LISTEN, I DON'T CARE IF HE IS ONE OF YOURS -- I DON'T CARE IF HE'S CAPTAIN AMERICA'S PERSONAL TOILET-SEAT WARMER --
-- I GOT PEOPLE WITH THEIR ARMS IN HIS STOMACH BEHIND THIS DOOR --
WE WANT TO TALK TO OUR MAN, DOC. THIS COMES EASY OR HARD --
NO ENTRY
GET ME A WOUND KIT HERE -- DR. ROBSON'S BEEN SHOT --
TALK TO US, COGBURN.
GIVE US A NAME.
DOOM

--IMMEDIATE IMPOSITION OF FULL MARTIAL LAW--
--NO ONE ALLOWED OUTSIDE THEIR HOMES WITHOUT FULL PRINTED AUTHORIZATION FROM SHIELD CITY CENTRAL--
--MOVING ORDNANCE AS FAST AS WE CAN, SIR.
YES, THE DETACHMENT OF WAVE SPIDERS HAS JUST MADE IT'S ARRIVAL-- THANK CHICAGO FOR ME--
--WE'LL HAVE A RING OF STEEL THROWN AROUND WASHINGTON'S ENTIRE PERIMETER WITHIN THE HOUR.



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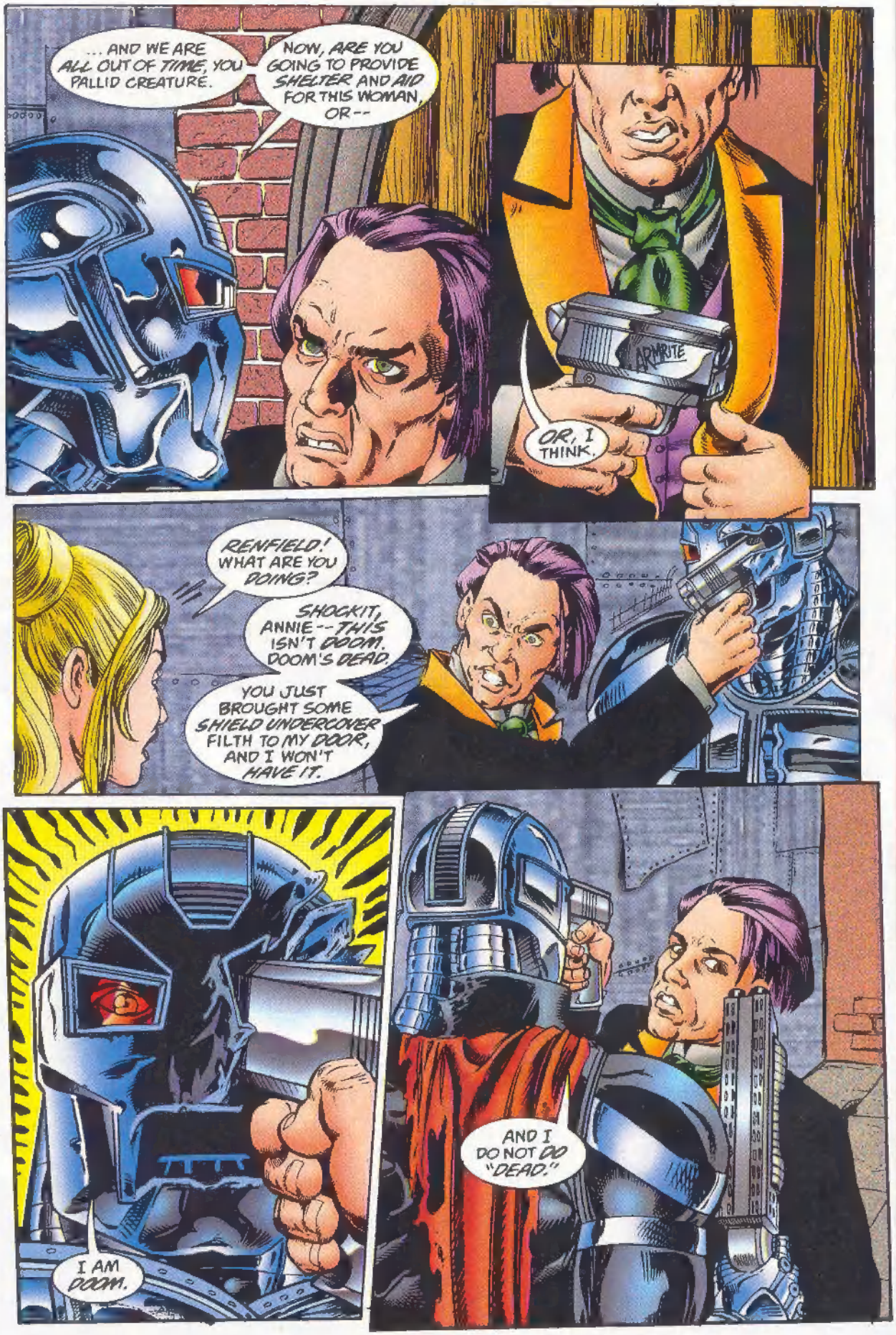
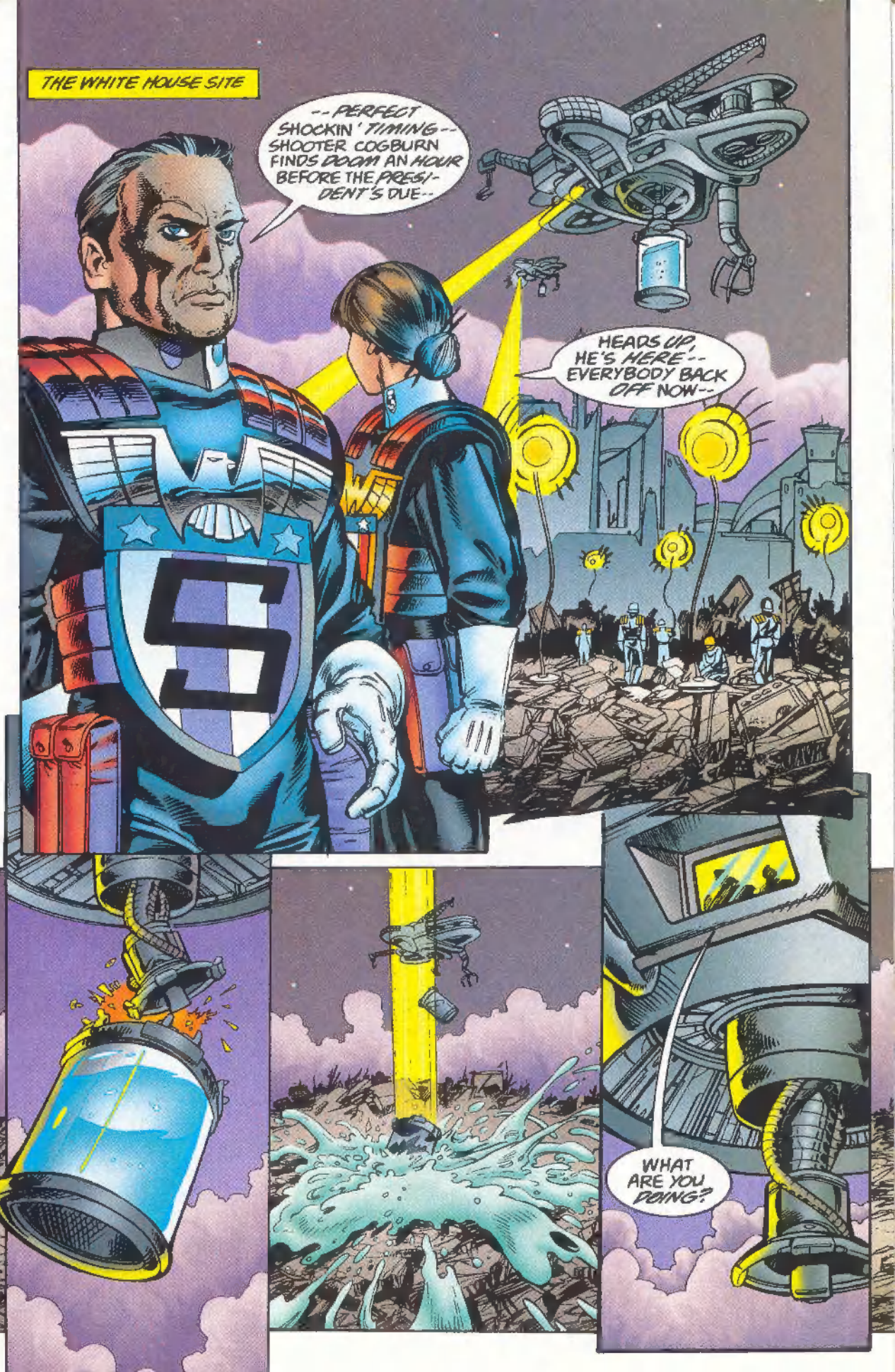
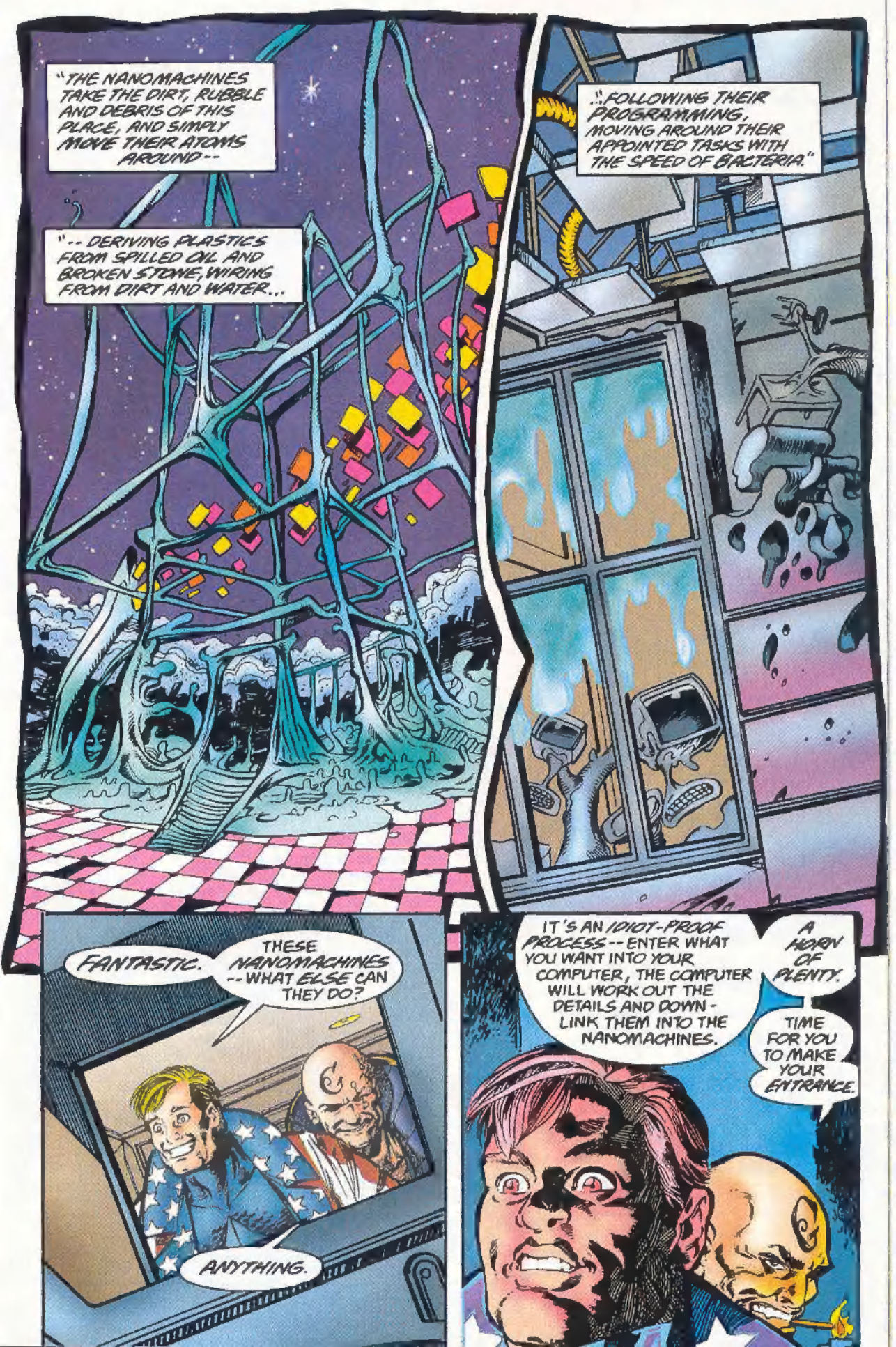
JUDAS H. PRIEST.
STEP INSIDE.
ACCEPT THEIR
THAT'S IT, JUST STEP INSIDE MY LITTLE PORCH HERE...
STATIC ANNIE WAGNER--HAVE YOU BEEN A BAD GIRL? IS THAT AN INHIBITOR SPIKE, OR JUST A PARTICULARLY OUTRÉ BROOCH?
RENFIELD... I'M EXHAUSTED... AND NOT IN THE MOOD...


... AND WE ARE ALL OUT OF TIME, YOU PALLID CREATURE.
NOW, ARE YOU GOING TO PROVIDE SHELTER AND AID FOR THIS WOMAN, OR--
ARMRITE
OR, I THINK.
RENFIELD! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
SHOCKIT, ANNIE--THIS ISN'T DOOM. DOOM'S DEAD.
YOU JUST BROUGHT SOME SHIELD UNDERCOVER FILTH TO MY DOOR, AND I WON'T HAVE IT.
I AM DOOM.
AND I DO NOT DO "DEAD."


THE WHITE HOUSE SITE
--PERFECT SHOCKIN' TIMING-- SHOOTER COGBURN FINDS DOOM AN HOUR BEFORE THE PRESI-DENT'S DUE--
HEADS UP, HE'S HERE-- EVERYBODY BACK OFF NOW--
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

WE'RE BUILDING YOU A NEW HOME, MR. PRESIDENT.
WITH WATER?
"NO. WITH NANO-TECH ASSEMBLERS, SUSPENDED IN WATER.
"DOES THE TERM NANOTECH MEAN ANYTHING TO YOU? NO?
"NANOTECHNOLOGY: THE PREFIX 'NANO' MEANING ON THE SCALE OF A NANO-METER, A BILLIONTH OF A METER.
"THIS IS THE PHYSICS OF ROBOTS TINY ENOUGH TO ASSEMBLE MOLECULES ONE BY ONE.
"THE SCALE OF A VIRUS, MR. PRESIDENT.
"A TIME-CONSUMING TASK, OBVIOUSLY--UNLESS YOU RELEASE BILLIONS UPON BILLIONS OF NANOMACHINES PROGRAMMED FOR THE SAME TASK.

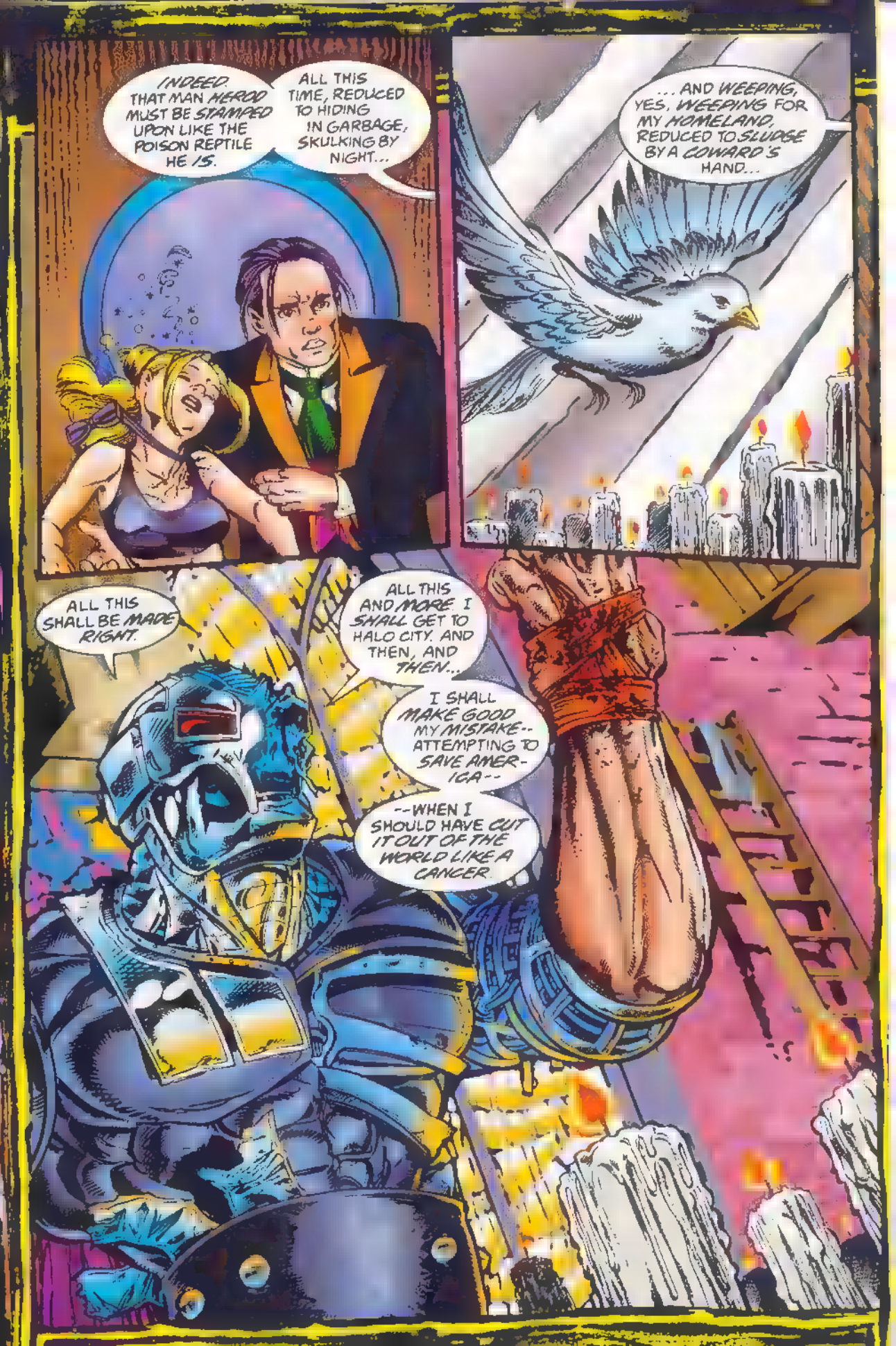

"THE NANOMACHINES TAKE THE DIRT, RUBBLE AND DEBRIS OF THIS PLACE, AND SIMPLY MOVE THEIR ATOMS AROUND--
"-- DERIVING PLASTICS FROM SPILLED OIL AND BROKEN STONE, WIRING FROM DIRT AND WATER...
..."FOLLOWING THEIR PROGRAMMING, MOVING AROUND THEIR APPOINTED TASKS WITH THE SPEED OF BACTERIA."
FANTASTIC.
THESE NANOMACHINES -- WHAT ELSE CAN THEY DO?
ANYTHING.
IT'S AN IDIOT-PROOF PROCESS -- ENTER WHAT YOU WANT INTO YOUR COMPUTER, THE COMPUTER WILL WORK OUT THE DETAILS AND DOWN-LINK THEM INTO THE NANOMACHINES.
A HORN OF PLENTY.
TIME FOR YOU TO MAKE YOUR ENTRANCE.

"TAKE YOUR SEAT OF GOVERNMENT WITHIN THE RED HOUSE.
"BE AN ICON, MR. PRESIDENT. BE HEROIC, AND HARD, AND HANDSOME.
"CHARM THEIR EYE, MR. PRESIDENT, WHILE I PICK THEIR POCKETS."

I AM TIRED. I AM PHYSICALLY UNCOMFORTABLE. MY ARMOR IS LARGELY DISABLED.
BUT MY TRIGGER FINGER IS IN PERFECT WORKING ORDER, AMERICAN.
AS I AM COMPLETELY WILLING TO DEMONSTRATE.
VERY WELL, THEN.
BUT I STILL DON'T TRUST YOU.
I DO NOT REQUIRE YOUR FRIENDSHIP--
--OR EVEN YOUR FAITH--
I DO NOT REQUIRE YOUR "TRUST."

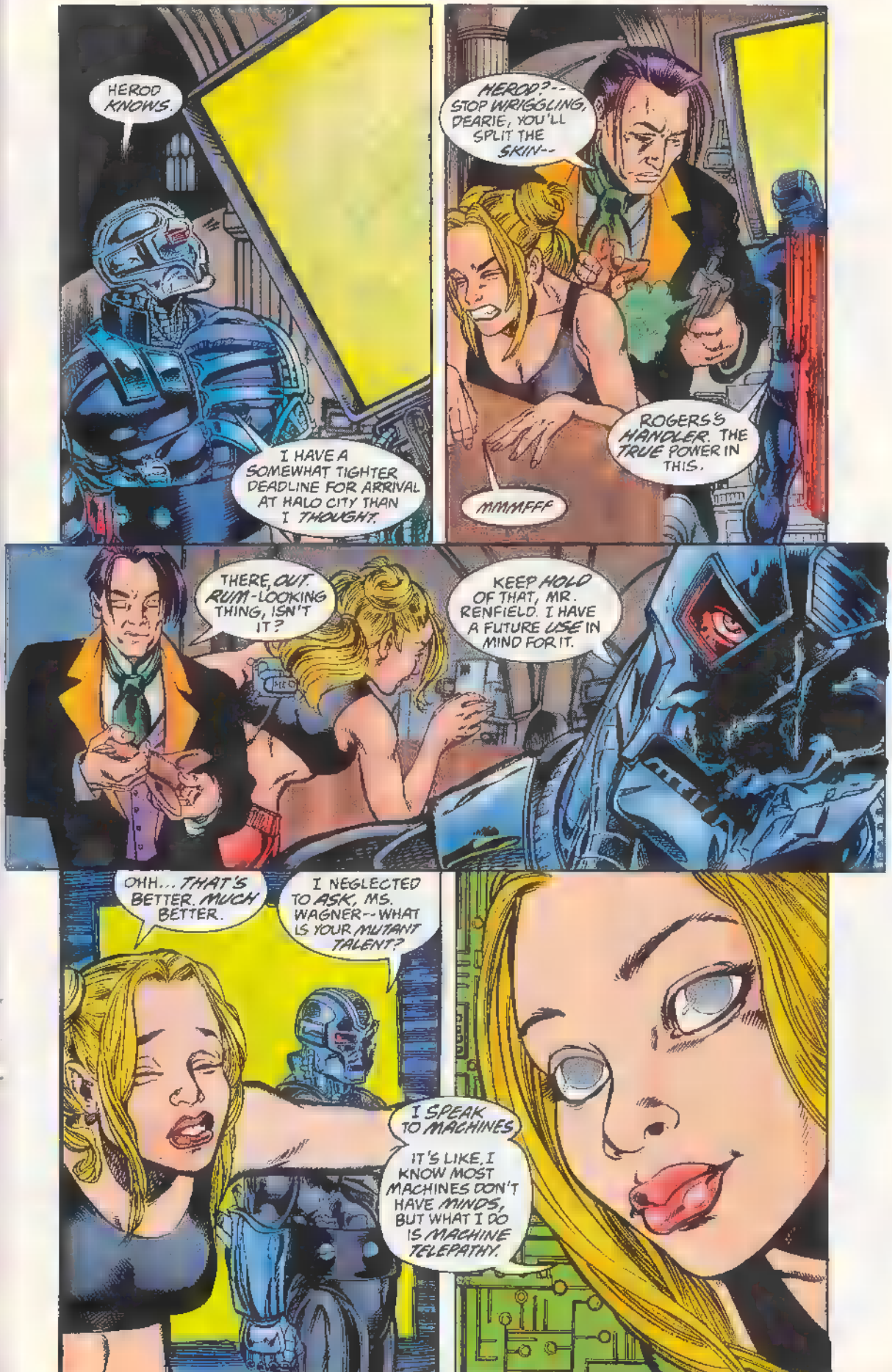
I REQUIRE ONLY YOUR OBEISANCE.
HE'S DEFINITELY THE PRESIDENT.
WELL, ALL... IT'S A PLEASURE, I'M SURE, MR. PRESIDENT...
HOW CAN I BE OF SERVICE?
I NEED NET ACCESS COMPUTERS, AND COVER TRANSPORTATION TO HALO CITY.
AND MY COMPANION NEEDS MEDICAL AID.
NOW, MR. RENFIELD.

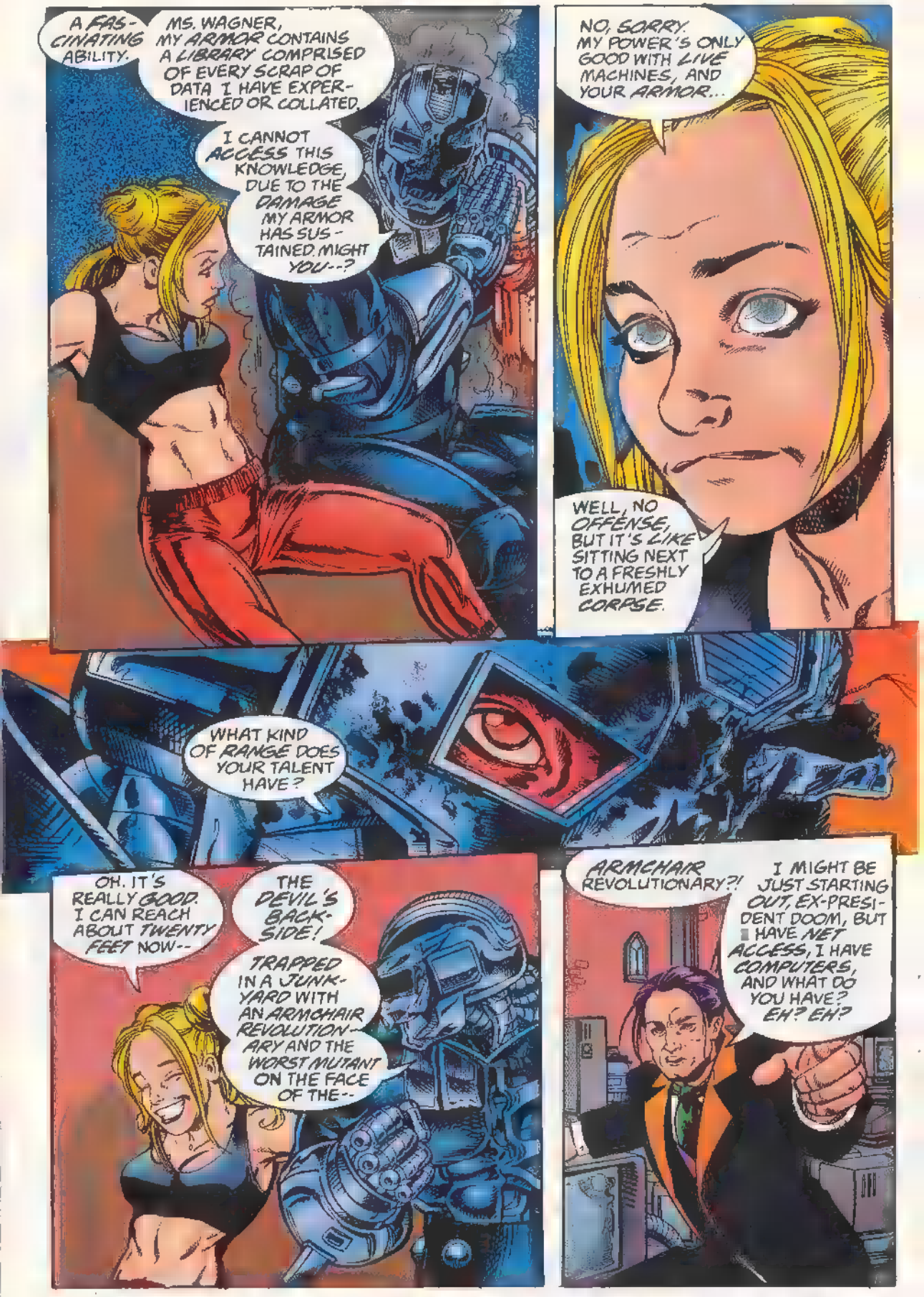
MS. WAGNER HAS TOLD ME OF YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE RE-ACTIV-8 MOVEMENT, MR RENFIELD.
AND, IN ANY TIME, THOSE SEEKING TO PERFORM ACTS OF CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE--
--EVEN THOSE SUCH AS YOU, TRYING TO REDISCOVER THE ART IN REACTION TO THE COUP--
--NEED ACCESS TO SUCH THINGS.
OUR AIMS ARE THE SAME, MR. RENFIELD.
IF I UNDERSTAND RE-ACTIV-8 CORRECTLY, YOU WISH TO SEE THE NEW PRESIDENT REMOVED.
I WISH TO SEE THE POWER BEHIND ROGERS MURDERED

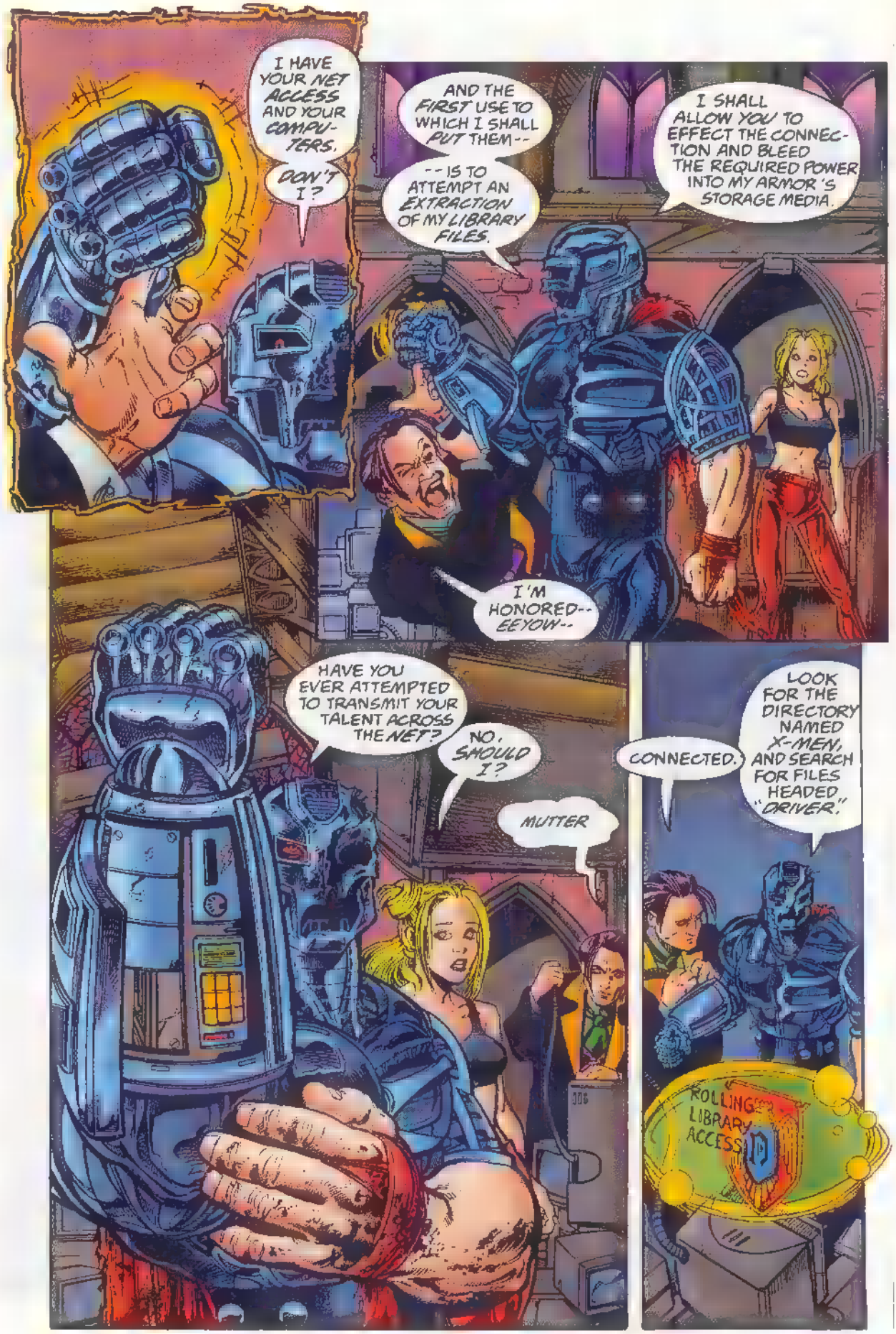

INDEED. THAT MAN HEROD MUST BE STAMPED UPON LIKE THE POISON REPTILE HE IS.
ALL THIS TIME, REDUCED TO HIDING IN GARBAGE, SKULKING BY NIGHT...
... AND WEEPING, YES, WEEPING FOR MY HOMELAND, REDUCED TO SLUDGE BY A COWARD'S HAND...
ALL THIS SHALL BE MADE RIGHT.
ALL THIS AND MORE I SHALL GET TO HALO CITY. AND THEN, AND THEN...
I SHALL MAKE GOOD MY MISTAKE-- ATTEMPTING TO SAVE AMER-ICA--
--WHEN I SHOULD HAVE CUT IT OUT OF THE WORLD LIKE A CANCER.

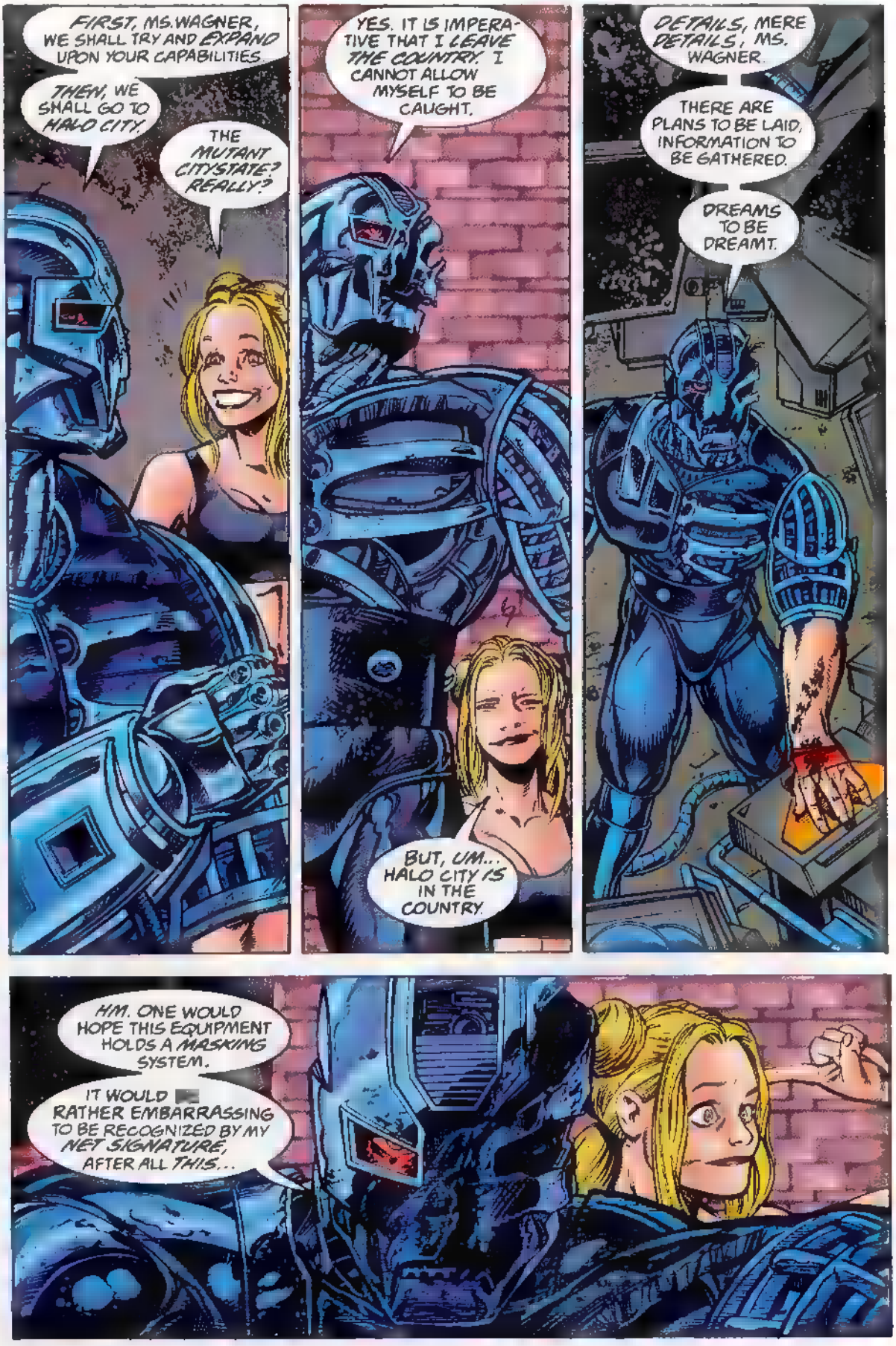
THE RED HOUSE
THIS LAWN LOOKS EMPTY. PERHAPS WE COULD CRUCIFY SOME DISSIDENTS, GIVE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE SOME OF THAT OLD-TIME RELIGION...
I KNEW YOU'D GET INTO THE SWING OF THINGS, MR. PRESIDENT.
DIRECT LINE CALL. ORIGIN MASK.
TZZZT
OH, GOOD GRIEF -- NO REST FOR THE WICKED.
PHONE; ACCEPT CALL, ATTEMPT DISABLE MASKED CALL ORIGIN.
THIS IS MORPHINE SOMERS.
YOU KNOW, YOU COULD AT LEAST 'VE CHANGED THE OVAL OFFICE PHONE NUMBER.
I WANT TO SPEAK TO THE MAN IN CHARGE, NOW.
WELL, WELL: THE MISSING MEMBER OF DOOM'S BLACK CABINET. THE MUTANT.
YOU'D HEARD, OF COURSE, THAT MUTANTS ARE BANNED FROM ALL URBAN AREAS.
ALL EXCEPT ONE.

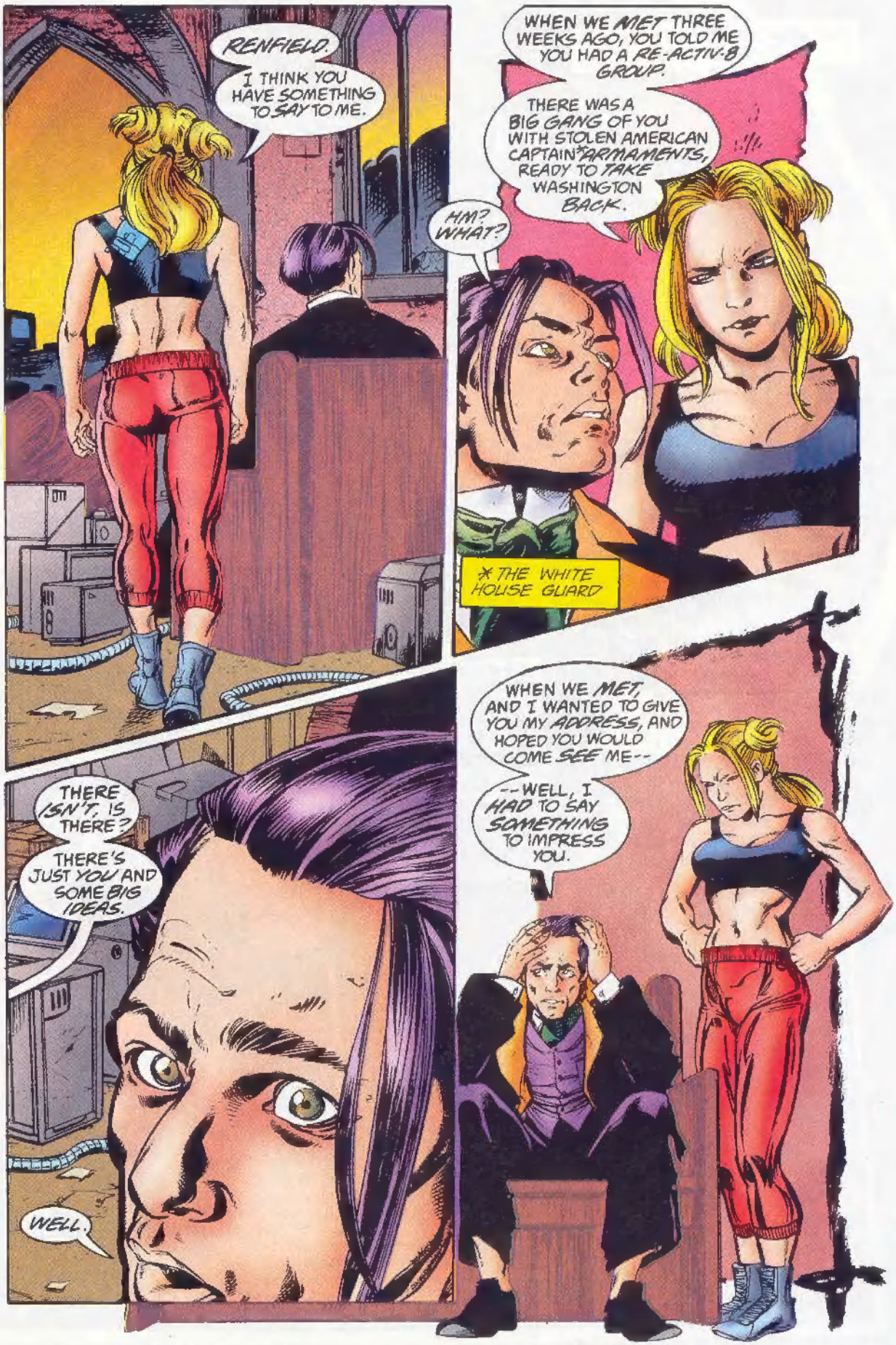
HALO CITY.
HALO CITY IS MINE, SPITEYES--AND SO ARE THE X-MEN. IT'S THE FIRST MUTANT CITYSTATE.
AND IF YOU TRY AND COME GET ME, IT'S GOING TO COST YOU MORE THAN WHAT'S IN YOUR POCKET. BELIEVE ME.
YOUR POINT?
...MUTANT.
TRADE.
I WANT FREEDOM FROM PROSECUTION AS A POLITICAL CRIMINAL, AND I WANT HALO CITY JUST THE WAY IT IS.
YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING I WANT, MUTANT.
I THINK I DO.
I HAVE THE CREATION OF A SLAVE CLASS THAT DOESN'T EAT OR SLEEP.
I'M SURE A MAN LIKE YOU UNDERSTANDS THE PROFIT MOTIVE.


HEROD KNOWS.
I HAVE A SOMEWHAT TIGHTER DEADLINE FOR ARRIVAL AT HALO CITY THAN I THOUGHT.
HEROD?-- STOP WRIGGLING, DEARIE, YOU'LL SPLIT THE SKIN--
MMMFFF
ROGERS'S HANDLER. THE TRUE POWER IN THIS.
THERE, OUT. RUM-LOOKING THING, ISN'T IT?
KEEP HOLD OF THAT, MR. RENFIELD. I HAVE A FUTURE USE IN MIND FOR IT.
OHH... THAT'S BETTER. MUCH BETTER.
I NEGLECTED TO ASK, MS. WAGNER-- WHAT IS YOUR MUTANT TALENT?
I SPEAK TO MACHINES
IT'S LIKE, I KNOW MOST MACHINES DON'T HAVE MINDS, BUT WHAT I DO IS MACHINE TELEPATHY.


A FASCINATING ABILITY.
MS. WAGNER, MY ARMOR CONTAINS A LIBRARY COMPRISED OF EVERY SCRAP OF DATA I HAVE EXPERIENCED OR COLLATED.
I CANNOT ACCESS THIS KNOWLEDGE, DUE TO THE DAMAGE MY ARMOR HAS SUSTAINED. MIGHT YOU--?
NO, SORRY. MY POWER'S ONLY GOOD WITH LIVE MACHINES, AND YOUR ARMOR...
WELL, NO OFFENSE, BUT IT'S LIKE SITTING NEXT TO A FRESHLY EXHUMED CORPSE.
WHAT KIND OF RANGE DOES YOUR TALENT HAVE?
OH. IT'S REALLY GOOD. I CAN REACH ABOUT TWENTY FEET NOW--
THE DEVIL'S BACKSIDE!
TRAPPED IN A JUNKYARD WITH AN ARMCHAIR REVOLUTIONARY AND THE WORST MUTANT ON THE FACE OF THE--
ARMCHAIR REVOLUTIONARY?!
I MIGHT BE JUST STARTING OUT, EX-PRESIDENT DOOM, BUT I HAVE NET ACCESS, I HAVE COMPUTERS, AND WHAT DO YOU HAVE? EH? EH?


I HAVE YOUR NET ACCESS AND YOUR COMPUTERS, DON'T I?
AND THE FIRST USE TO WHICH I SHALL PUT THEM--
--IS TO ATTEMPT AN EXTRACTION OF MY LIBRARY FILES.
I SHALL ALLOW YOU TO EFFECT THE CONNECTION AND BLEED THE REQUIRED POWER INTO MY ARMOR'S STORAGE MEDIA.
I'M HONORED--EEYOW--
HAVE YOU EVER ATTEMPTED TO TRANSMIT YOUR TALENT ACROSS THE NET?
NO, SHOULD I?
MUTTER
CONNECTED.
LOOK FOR THE DIRECTORY NAMED X-MEN, AND SEARCH FOR FILES HEADED "DRIVER."
ROLLING LIBRARY ACCESS


FIRST, MS. WAGNER, WE SHALL TRY AND EXPAND UPON YOUR CAPABILITIES
THEN, WE SHALL GO TO HALO CITY.
THE MUTANT CITYSTATE? REALLY?
YES. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT I LEAVE THE COUNTRY. I CANNOT ALLOW MYSELF TO BE CAUGHT.
BUT, UM... HALO CITY IS IN THE COUNTRY.
DETAILS, MERE DETAILS, MS. WAGNER.
THERE ARE PLANS TO BE LAID, INFORMATION TO BE GATHERED.
DREAMS TO BE DREAMT.
HM. ONE WOULD HOPE THIS EQUIPMENT HOLDS A MASKING SYSTEM.
IT WOULD RATHER EMBARRASSING TO BE RECOGNIZED BY MY NET SIGNATURE, AFTER ALL THIS...


RENFIELD.
I THINK YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY TO ME.
WHEN WE MET THREE WEEKS AGO, YOU TOLD ME YOU HAD A RE-ACTIV-8 GROUP.
THERE WAS A BIG GANG OF YOU WITH STOLEN AMERICAN CAPTAIN*ARMAMENTS, READY TO TAKE WASHINGTON BACK.
HM? WHAT?
* THE WHITE HOUSE GUARD
THERE ISN'T, IS THERE?
THERE'S JUST YOU AND SOME BIG IDEAS.
WELL.
WHEN WE MET, AND I WANTED TO GIVE YOU MY ADDRESS, AND HOPED YOU WOULD COME SEE ME--
--WELL, I HAD TO SAY SOMETHING TO IMPRESS YOU.

THE SNAP AND CRACKLE OF CYBERSPACE
There's a twentieth century fire in my blood--I am a street-fighting youth again, facing the aristocracy with truth and gunfire.
My back is to the wall, I know.
But they always said I was more DANGEROUS that way.
Here's the cyberspace representation of computer uplinks to the Global Positioning System.
I'm looking for a very special connection, issued from the computer of a vehicle requiring very special navigational skills.
I have it.
And with the connection data, I will be able to force entry through the net into that computer and that vehicle.

"Ride on! Ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die!
—Henry Hart Milman
Ride On

VOICES OF DOOM

Lia Pelosi
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New York, New York 10016

Out Of My Head

Best moments of the San Diego Convention included talking to Mexican artists like Humberto Ramos (who's penciling X-NATION 2099 #1) Carlos Tron and Roberto Flores about Japanese artists like Katsuhiro Otomo and Masamune Shirow; talking to Randy and Jean-Marc Lofficier about the European comics scene, and speakin' to everybody else about what's up in comics centers like Barcelona and Buenos Aires.

Worst moment was coming home and picking up the Japanese 'zine "Comic Box" and reading their symposium, "Is Manga Dead?" Japan, often pointed to as a utopia for funny-book fans, is wallin' the blues. Which points up that what we're up against is a global problem.

I have no control over business problems, and neither do you. But whatever happens in the foreseeable future, this biz is still the same people doing the same stuff for the same audience, a possible hundred thousand in a nation of 250,000,000. Sorry, but that's our biggest problem.

Dear Voices of Doom,

I've been so satisfied with the recent rendition of Dr. Victor Von Doom in DOOM 2099. I was amazed at how quickly and seemingly totally Warren Ellis orchestrated Doom's taking of America.

I was worried when I heard that Warren Ellis was taking over the writing of Doom's conquests. I feared Warren would focus overly on the dark side of Doom and disregard the responsibility Doom feels for his servants.

Though Doom is cold and ruthless toward his enemies, he sees the world in terms of a feudal society. He's the lord of all he surveys and will protect his servants against all aggressors. He doesn't see his actions as evil, for he'll justify any action with "If it is good for Doom, it is good for all."

This established, I was shocked at how Doom's conquest of America was torn apart by John Herod in issue #33. Just as I've been caught up in Doom's power trip of conquest, I was now stricken with his pain as he watched helplessly while his beloved Latveria was liquidated.

WARREN ELLIS DESTROYED LATVERIA!
I still can't believe it!
WARREN ELLIS DESTROYED LATVERIA!

I had to step back and remind myself that through the years Doom has committed many such atrocities against his enemies. It was still hard to take.

I look to the days ahead. That broken look in Doom's eyes near the end of issue #33 will soon be replaced by a more determined and deadly Victor Von Doom than has ever been seen before. He is Doom. How long can Herod hide? How dangerous is Herod once Doom finds him? One thing I know, I wouldn't want to be John Herod.

Until there is no more DOOM 2099 Make Mine Marvel.

Dewain E. Peek
Livingston, TN

We love Warren's work on this title more and more each ish, Dewain. Doom has indeed found himself a worthy opponent in John Herod. In fact, Herod won't just cause problems for Doom, he'll make his presence known all over the 2099 Universe.

Dear Mr. Ellis,

There is an old tired Marvel formula that says that the protagonist shall: a) fight his battles in person, no matter what his resources are, b) get defeated in the first round, so that he can learn, rise and take revenge. Sadly, this has also applied to Doom. Not so anymore. Doom's orders are now carried out by dozens of aides, attendants and servants. Why should a monarch sully his hands? But when Doom, by his own choice, takes personal action he is never put on the defensive. I have been waiting since issue #5 for Doom to start ruling Latveria, to lay down the law and to enter the political stage of diplomacy. I've been waiting since issue #10 for Doom to use Pixel's assets in economical warfare. All good things to those who wait.

Doom is back where he belongs. Aloof and alone in a dark room. Surrounded by screens. Scheming and manipulating. He relies on computers (what else can he trust?) and addresses only himself (who else can understand him?). His mind is as closed to us as it is to Fortune and his other allies. Like them, we have to put our trust in his vision.

At first, I was a little worried about the loose ends, but you have already dealt with Wire and the Neon Angel (Margaretta directed Doom's ally Poet as well as his enemies like Tiger Wylde) and will no doubt deal with Kaz, Xandra and Doom's mystical abilities sooner or later. Doom and Margaretta's past together are not addressed however, and they were only two of the shadows. Don't forget this looming inner circle, since they may just be the only worthy opposition left to Doom in this dreary future.

Hail Doom! May your reign last forever!

Mattias Nilsson
Osthammar, Sweden

Herod's definitely proven himself a worthy adversary for Doom wouldn't ya say, Mattias? And you're absolutely right, Doom can't trust anybody. Would you if Warren had complete control of YOUR life?

Dear Joey and Lia,

How does "Arrrgh" sound for my reactions to DOOM 2099 #33? Let's put it this way: the week before, I bought another Warren Ellis book, "Ruins", and that one painted a prettier picture than what I'm seeing now.

Sigh. I suppose it was inevitable that Doom be booted from power. After all, he's lost the power of the Silver Surfer and the Beyonder, and just missed getting the Infinity Gauntlet. How can we expect political life to be any better?

Some points:

1) Tighter continuity. I noticed how everyone was reeling from the CA earthquake, while in X-MEN 2099 #24, the EMPs began to fall from the sky. Very cute.

2) Captain America? Y'know, I wish we'd gotten more than 2 pages of him. The cover fooled me into thinking he'd be the story's focus. After all, when Doom mysteriously reappeared 32 issues go, it caused a stir. Why would Cap be any less?

3) Supporting cast. Or rather, the lack of it recently. Wire and Xandra are dead, Fortune is now most likely a pile of slush, and Vox has vanished off the face of the Earth. While I've always felt that Doom had too big of a supporting cast, and not enough focus on him, everybody's dying!

Anyway, overall it was still a cool issue. Though I do seriously hope that Doom gets up and blows those stupid tattoos off Herod's head.

He was doing such a good job...

Adam Frey
Abyssquick@aol.com

Adam, nothing in this world is forever. "One Nation Under Doom" was meant to tighten continuity ties between our books. Glad you noticed the effort we made.

Next Issue

Our "X-Nation" storyline continues: The Driver, the Nitroburn, Renfield, Annie, and the X-Man known as Xi'an Chi Xan in Halo City! Small universe, eh?